

RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH PROGRAM-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

In addition to the general travel risks outlined in the [Study Abroad Risk Advisory](#) this program “Bhutan—GIS in the Land of the Thunder Dragon” (hereinafter “Program”) has specific activities which may pose a heightened level of risk for participants. UC Davis Study Abroad provides this information so that students can make an informed decision about consenting to participate in the Program.

Participants in the “Bhutan—GIS in the Land of the Thunder Dragon” program will be expected to participate in the activities below.

If participants do not want to participate in an activity, they must inform the Faculty Leader or Program Coordinator immediately and ask to opt out. In some cases, an activity may be a required in order to participate on the Program (e.g. travel to another site). In these instances, participants wishing to opt out may not be able to participate in the Program at all and may need to choose another program. Study Abroad will try to keep opt out decisions confidential, but due to the group nature of certain activities (such as group travel/tours), it may be impossible for the decision to be kept confidential.

By participating in in a UC Davis Study Abroad Program, participants voluntarily assume these additional associated risks, both known and unknown. If participants do not ask to opt out, UC Davis Study Abroad will assume they consent to the risks associated with participating in the activities.

- **This Program includes non-traditional motorized transportation** both during Program hours and/or as the primary means of transportation for students during free time via (select all that apply):
 - Private car-for-hire (similar to taxis, but operated by regulated or unregulated private drivers)
 - Private motorcoach or van-for-hire (similar to a small public bus but may be operated by regulated or unregulated private drivers)

This form of transportation is a common form of public transportation in the country abroad but may have limited or no governmental regulation. This means vehicles may or may not be inspected, drivers may or may not be licensed or certified, drivers may or may not have insurance, and safety standards (if they exist) may be significantly lower than those in the U.S.

- **This Program includes non-traditional non-motorized transportation** both during Program hours and/or as the primary means of transportation for students during free time via (select all that apply):
 - Horse or mule – riding in a saddle or within a pulled vehicle
 - Extended walking or hiking of approximately 5 miles.

This form of transportation is a common or elective form of public transportation in the country abroad but may have limited or no governmental regulation. This means that equipment or

animals may or may not be inspected, that I may be at risk for injury due to contact with animals or their behavior, and that this form of transportation may require my own physical exertion.

- **This Program includes hiking and/or camping.** Hiking and/or camping includes additional risk of injury or death related to physical exertion, accident, or exposure to insects/animals, the environment or weather. These activities are supervised, travelers will be provided with necessary equipment and will take place in relatively safe locations, but weather and environmental conditions are unpredictable and can change quickly. Travelers may be required to: hike/walk for distances of a few miles; hike/walk over uneven, slippery, inclining/declining, or rocky terrain (which increases risk of falls, accidents); carry or lift gear or supplies; shelter in tents/sleeping bags; share in group cooking/cleaning/camp preparation activities; and tolerate mild but possibly uncomfortable weather conditions (moderately hot or cold temperatures, rain, wind, very high or very low humidity, periods of sun without shade, etc.) While preventative measures are taken, travelers are nevertheless at elevated risk for physical injury, and exposure to water-borne illnesses, disease carrying insects, or poisonous plants or animals.
- **This Program includes a stay in primitive or rudimentary accommodations.** Travelers will be staying for one or more nights in non-traditional accommodations such as tents, rural villages, and/or primitive huts. These accommodations may not have traditional amenities such as entirely enclosed rooms, close access to restroom facilities, air conditioning/heating, electricity, running water, phone access or cellular reception, traditional mattresses or bedding. Although these accommodations are not inherently dangerous, they require additional flexibility from travelers and may cause some degree of inconvenience or discomfort compared to a traditional hotel.
- **This Program requires the use of public transportation.** Travelers on this Program will be required to utilize public transportation (buses, trains, taxis, etc.) as the primary means of conveyance. Travelers may be provided with transportation passes as part of their Program fees. Public transportation services are regulated by local governments and are typically held to minimum standards of repair, safety, timely service and accessibility. Public transportation is often very safe and, in some areas, is the only means of transportation. However, local regulations may differ or be less than those for public transportation in the U.S. Use of public transportation includes the risk of injury from accident (including operator negligence), transit delays, fines or penalties for improper use, impacts or shutdowns related to worker strikes, petty theft and assault, and minimal but elevated risk from terrorist activities.
- **This Program includes a prolonged stay in a remote, rural environment.** Although the Program site is not inherently dangerous, travelers will be staying in a remote area for a prolonged period of time. There may be limited or no access to immediate medical facilities (major incidents

would require evacuation), pharmacy and grocery stores may be limited or non-existent (travelers will need to bring their own personal supplies), transportation to and at the site may be limited and subject to weather or environmental conditions, and travelers may have limited or no access to phone/cellular/internet services or reliable electricity.

- **This Program includes a substantial amount of travel and relocation.** This Program is a “multi-site” or “traveling” program and requires that students change locations on a periodic basis. While the frequent travel is not inherently dangerous, there is a slightly elevated risk of injury or accidental loss of property associated with the frequent moves. While unlikely, there is an increased risk of accidental loss of belongings, delays and changes to the Program itinerary due to transportation delays, the possibility of small additional costs to students (baggage fees, meals purchased in transit), and some travelers may experience stress or fatigue associated with frequent moves/travel.

- **This program includes activities in the vicinity of dangerous and dynamic natural phenomena**

This program includes low-risk activities such as walking which take place around higher-risk geologic activity or natural phenomena that may have fewer public safeguards or warnings as in the United States. There is an elevated risk of injury to travelers who are not aware of their surroundings. For example, travelers may hike near cliffs, crevasses, fissures, rivers, waterfalls, oceans, lagoons, active volcanoes, and hot geysers that have minimal or no public barriers to prevent injury and which could cause substantial risk of bodily injury or death to the individual who is not aware of their surroundings. Warning signs may be minimal or non-existent. The required activities are supervised and precautionary warnings will be provided but students must remain alert, exercise caution and be aware of their surroundings at all times. Additionally, these geologic phenomena can undergo rapid and unexpected changes at any moment, such as earthquakes or eruptions, which are unpreventable.

- **This Program includes travel on rural or mountainous roads both during Program hours and/or as the primary route to/from indigenous communities and program locations.**

This means roads may be in poor condition and/or poorly maintained; crash barriers and guardrails are rare even on steep mountainous roads; bus travel can be particularly dangerous, especially at night; and truck and oil tanker traffic may be heavy.

- **In this location you will encounter many stray dogs.**

Rabies can be found in dogs, bats, and other mammals. Travelers should avoid free-roaming mammals. Do not assume stray dogs are nice. In most cases they are harmless, but many are not, and they can bite. Please consult travel health professionals to determine if preexposure vaccination is recommended. Visit the Centers for Disease Control (<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/>) website for more information.